

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

January, 1982
Issue No. 95

John M. Barnes
Associate Editor

JANUARY MEETING: As is traditional, the January CATC meeting will be held at the home of the illustrious travel guide, Mr. Bob Ritterband. Festivities are scheduled to begin about 1:30 PM on Sunday, January 17, 1982 and extend until about sunset. Bob lives at 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles. For your orientation: Colgate runs parallel to Wilshire Blvd., but about half a mile to the north. Bob's home is centered approximately half way between Fairfax Ave. and La Cienaga Blvd. If you have any problems getting to the meeting, feel free to call Bob for advice: 938-4504.

NOVEMBER MINUTES: The 148th meeting of CATC was held on November 15, 1980 at the home of Secretary Elaine Willahan. Tasty refreshments were provided by Eleanor Smith. Elections for 1982 were held, and every member present sat shivering in fear lest he be selected to fill an Association office. The collective sigh of relief was clearly audible when all of the incumbent officers agreed to serve one more term in office. For the record, these officers for 1982 are: Stephen Alpert, President; John M. Barnes, Vice President; Elaine Willahan, Secretary; and Andy Crusen, Treasurer. It was agreed that John Barnes will continue to be Numismatic Association of Southern California club delegate, and, further, that the President and Vice President will continue to alternate as Editor of Token Topics. Present at the meeting were Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, Larry Elman, James Garner, Bill Kirk, Bill Massey, Fred McGinnis, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Kirk Smith, Shelby Wagner, Todd Wagner, and Elaine Willahan. Elaine advised that CATC now has eighty eight paid members (seems like a record. John Barnes conducted an auction which contained some fascinating material that drew spirited bidding. Due to good auction prices and donation lots, the association realized \$8.95 in commissions.

DUES: Please note this paragraph carefully: If you have not already paid, your dues for 1982 should immediately be forwarded to Secretary Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles, Cal. 90044. If, and only if, you pay dues in a timely manner you will receive from Elaine at no extra cost the complete updated lists of CATC collectors' interests. Another important note: When you submit your 1982 dues, you should advise Elaine if you do not wish your address listed in the collectors' interest list. Similarly, be sure to advise Elaine right away of any changes in your interests. Dues remain at last year's figure: \$2.00.

DONATIONS: The Association's thanks to to the following people who have recently donated material (tokens) for coming auctions: William Helton, Norton Steenfott, Jack Smith, Ben Odesser, and Robert Coney. In addition, Robert Carter donated \$1.00 in postage and Toby Frisbee donated \$2.00 in postage.

NEW MEMBERS: I am pleased to welcome a bumper crop of new members:

Gordon F. Chamberlin II, 13305 Summertime Lane, Culver City, Cal. 90230 (Automovtime,) Rod B. Curry, D.D.S. 240-26th St., Santa Monica, Cal. 90402 (Brunswick & Green River)* Cindy Grellman, 670 Korina St., Vandenberg AFB, Cal. 93437 (Civil War Tokens & others) Fred McGinnis, P. O. Box 45855, Los Angeles, Cal. 90045 (Coins, tokens, Medals, etc.) Todd Wagner, 528 Platina Dr., Diamond Bar, Cal. 91765 (Civil War Tokens)

*Green River Whiskey Tokens

THE PRESS: The Los Angeles Times of November 24, 1981 contained both of the short articles reproduced below. With respect to the RTD, I wonder why no one gave consideration to issuing SBA dollars to all customers! Has anyone seen one of the new tokens? It appears that Mr. Don Alpert needs some numismatic guidance (please note that he's no relation to Steve Alpert). Or, maybe I'm wrong, and we'll all have to sell our duplicates at garage sales!

★ Tuesday, November 24, 1981 / Part II 3

RTD to Sell \$1 Bus Tokens

Bus tokens valued at \$1 will be sold to bus riders in the hope of eliminating dollar bills in the farebox, the Southern California Rapid Transit District has decided. the \$1 token, which will be good for the 85-cent basic fare plus a 15-cent transfer, will be available to the public in January, an RTD spokesman said. Although the tokens will cost \$47,000 to produce, they are recyclable and will eliminate the need for about six RTD employees who are paid to sort dollar bills after fares are collected, the spokesman said.

YOUR COINS BY DON ALPERT

Q: Where can I find out if certain tokens have any value? I recently bought a box of tokens at an auction. Most of them say "No cash or trade value" on one side and "For amusement only" on the reverse. They seem to be quite old and some have a hole in the center while others are solid brass. — T.L.G.

A: You're in an area with very little collecting scope. Tokens are hard to price and hard to sell. You might try a swap meet, garage sale or another auction.

MAVERICKS—AN IDEA: It goes without saying that we would all like to know more about our maverick tokens. As collector's items, they are just coming in to their own (when they are attractive in appearance). However, we need more attention to them than this; they represent pieces of our nation's—and the world's—history. They represent a challenge to know where they came from. Thus far, efforts to learn about them have been fragmented and uncoordinated. For instance, TAMS runs identifications as a continuing feature, but no summation of the total identification and no index has been published, at least to my knowledge, in connection with the TAMS Journal feature. I discussed this problem with Mr. Kim Mohanty, an engineer employed by the Brookhaven Laboratory of Long Island, New York. Kim's response was immediate: A minicomputer with memory discs was the answer to the problem. He advised that the cost of such a system adequate for the volume of information to be contained would cost about \$20,000.00, but also that the cost of such systems is becoming cheaper as time passes. Kim projected a central computer (which I would like to see in possession of designated representatives of the Tokens and Medal Society) with technical arrangements made for telephone transmission of information to and from home computers. The home terminals would be considerably less expensive—ranging from \$700 for a home printer terminal to \$5000 for a TV screen type. Various types of access to the central computer would ensure the security of the information. Any member could have a "password" to obtain information from central or transmit proposed additions and corrections. Only a "central committee" would have full access to make changes....a precaution necessary to avoid damage or distortion to the information in the computer. Kim assured me that the memory could hold hundreds of thousands of items of information; surely such a capacity would be necessary because mavericks are not limited just to the United States collecting field. Kim said that "back-up storage with up-date mode" is available with the equipment. My idea assumes one important item: that the participating collectors have knowledge which would enable them to participate actively in identifications. For instance, the personal experience of Kenny Smith in the 1930's with vending machine tokens of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area has enabled hundreds of such pieces to be identified. Think of the research possibilities if access to information was properly programmed! All manner of cross referencing and indexing would be possible. The American Numismatic Society is now in the process of computerizing its collection of one million items. When are token collectors also going to choose to revolutionize their discipline?

TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

MARCH, 1982
Issue No. 96

Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

LAST CALL FOR 1982 DUES! Many members have not paid their \$2.00 CATC dues for 1982. Check the following list of names: Album, Anderson, Clifford, Fitzgerald, Fuld, Hansen, Hartzog, Hogan, Holliday, Kelley, Null, Saunders, Schreiner, Scott, Short, Tudor, Wilker, Woodbury. If you're among the above, this will be the last issue of Token Topics you'll receive unless you send \$2 to Elaine Willahan, 516 W.99th St., Los Angeles, CA 90044. The new membership list with collecting interests will be prepared soon. Only current paid up members will be listed - so don't miss out. Renew today.

MARCH MEETING: Our March meeting will be at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W.99th St., Los Angeles (near Figueroa & Century, just off the Harbor Fwy.), on Sunday March 21, from about 1 to 5 PM. Let's have a good turnout for this meeting. Lately I've been a bit disappointed at the low attendance at our last few meetings. I'd like to see 20 or more members show up, as back in the 1970's. That makes for much more trading activity and more competitive bidding in the auction. Ten trade tokens sent in by David Schulz will be in the March auction, along with the items submitted by members at the meeting.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT: Our last meeting, at Bob Ritterband's home, had in attendance 14 members: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, Larry Elman, Fred McGinnis, Bill Kirk, Bob Ritterband, Wally Shidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Shelby Wagner, Todd Wagner, Elaine Willahan, and guest Molly Ritterband. During the meeting there were discussions on the new Los Angeles RTD one dollar bus token (by Bob Ritterband) and a behind the scenes story of RTD's fare boxes, fare box operation, and theory behind the need for the new dollar token (by Wally Shidler). There was also a general discussion of Don Alpert who writes the weekly column "Your Coins" in the L.A. Times (see last issue of Token Topics). He repeatedly flaunts his ignorance of exonomia in his column, giving out preposterous information and badmouthing tokens in general, ignoring offers from some CATC members to help with correct information. The main point made in the discussion was that Don Alpert is in no way related to me (Steve Alpert), a fact which Don and I are mutually grateful.

The January auction had spirited bidding, and our treasury was increased by \$14 Andy Crusen (our treasurer and auction bookkeeper) reported. This was mainly from material donated by John Nicolosi, Bob Ritterband, John Barnes, and Larry Edell. John Barnes also deserves credit for the good job he does as auctioneer.

OTHER NEWS: It is always sad to report the death of one of our members, especially one who regularly attended our meetings. Virginia Barnes passed away on February 14. She had been ill the past year, but still managed to attend some of our meetings with her husband John, our current Vice President and co-editor of Token Topics. Virginia also supported our club by hosting our May meetings the past several years, at her home in Sherman Oaks. She had a great enthusiasm for collecting, and we will miss her presence at future meetings. She was 52 years old.

On a brighter note, the CATC will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this July. We plan to issue a plastic token commemorating this event. The design of

the token will be one of the topics under discussion at the March meeting. All paid up members will receive the token, free. It will also be offered for sale to the rest of the exonomia community.

The 3rd National Collectibles Exposition in Chicago, March 13-14, will be attended by at least four southern California CATC members: Steve Alpert, Larry Elman, Bill Massey, and Alan Weinberg. We expect to meet many of the out of state CATC members at the show.

THE ULTIMATE TOKEN CATALOGUE?

By Steve Alpert

Last issue's discussion of the use of a computer to catalogue maverick tokens, to me is just one part of a larger overall ideal - a single catalogue, issued in several or many volumes, listing all known tokens. Over the past two decades, catalogues have been issued for tokens from many states and for tokens of many topics. Eventually I'd like to see one work, listing all trade tokens from all states, plus all unattributed mavericks, in the manner of world postage stamp catalogues.

I can relate an analogous effort in the science of paleontology (in which I was actively involved until a few years ago). Back in the 1950's, the invertebrate paleontologists of the world decided to prepare a catalogue listing all the invertebrate fossils (those without bones) known at the time. It is called the "Treatise On Invertebrate Paleontology" and was issued in about 35 volumes over a couple of decades, with different authors working on each volume. Each volume covers a particular phylum or class of animals. The purpose of this effort was twofold: to chronicle the state of the art of invertebrate paleontology of the mid 20th century, and to be a valuable reference work for future research. Rather than catalogue every species (impractical because of the enormous numbers of species involved), it was decided to go down to genus only. With tokens, this would correspond to listing merchant names and type of business only, and not listing denominations or die and metal varieties.

Is such a master exonomia work possible? By the end of this decade most all states and categories of exonomia will probably be catalogued. Then just the huge task of assimilating all of it into one reference work remains. The most important question is: would it be economically feasible to publish such a work, considering its size and the expenses involved. Using a format like the Krause & Mishler catalogue on world coins, or the Scott stamp catalogues, an enormous volume of listings can be published in a book the size of a large phone book. By keeping illustrations to a minimum, all the token listings could probably be squeezed into 2 or 3 books the size of the Krause & Mishler book.

TOKENS ON CABLE TV

By Steve Alpert

Beginning soon, I will be co-hosting a TV talk show on a local cable TV public access station. It is being done just for the fun of it (no pay), as a friend of mine is producing the program. The show will cover a broad range of topics, including tokens and collectibles. Local collectors are welcome to come on the show as guests, to discuss tokens and relate their favorite token tales and experiences. Everyone has stories of their big finds, or detective work in identifying or researching certain tokens. Several such programs are planned. They will be recorded on videotape for later broadcast, and personal copies can be made for participants who have a home video player system. So if you are a local CATC member, contact me at 478-7405 if you would like to be on the show. I'd like to have 2 or 3 guests on each show, for a panel discussion. It would differ very little from the discussions we have at our CATC meetings during the business session.

The program ("The Chamber", by Neepaz Productions) will be aired on Channel 18 on the Jack Barry Cable (of the TV game show host), which serves the Inglewood-Westchester-Playa Del Rey areas, and has about 5,000 subscribers so far. Almost no one will be watching the program at first. There's a remote chance that the show could be sold to other cable outlets and then be seen elsewhere.

In any case, this will probably be the first time a TV show will be devoted solely to tokens, so why not be a part of it?

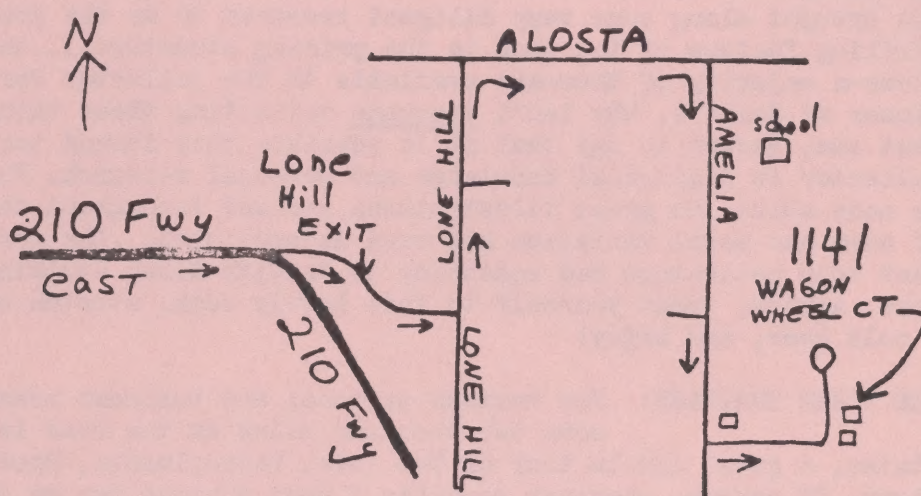
TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

May, 1982
Issue No. 97

John M. Barnes
Associate Editor

MAY MEETING: Member Bill Massey has kindly consented to have all CATC members and guests come to his home for our next meeting on Sunday, May 18, 1982. As usual, trading begins about 1:00 PM and continues to 5:00 PM, with a short business meeting somewhere in between. Directions: Take the 210 Freeway east to the Lone Hill exit (in San Dimas). Turn left on Lone Hill, proceed to Alosta; turn right and go one light to Amelia; turn right again and continue about two blocks to where you will turn left on Wagon Wheel Court. One short block and you are at Bill's address: 1141 Wagon Wheel Court, San Dimas. If in doubt, call Bill at (714) 599-7192. Steve Alpert's map is printed below to further assist you.



MARCH MINUTES: Our past meeting had something like a record attendance, with twenty members plus five guests present. The probable reason for this is that they all remember Elaine's desserts, particularly that chocolate one. Present were Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Rod Curry, Larry Elman, Jim Garner, John Hamilton, Bill Kirk, Bob Kubach, Bill Massey, Fred McGinnis, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Wally Shidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Shelby Wagner, Todd Wagner, and Elaine Willahan. Our guests were: Melissa Curry, Judy McGinnis, Molly Ritterband; and Jack and Ona von Bloebek of Arizona. A discussion was held regarding president Steve Alpert's concept of a master world token catalog, this idea being the outgrowth of my article proposing computerization of mavericks. I go along with Steve except regarding his tentative idea of listing only issuers of tokens, rather than all varieties of their token issues. I'm afraid they all have to be there for the catalog to be useful, even if they add some bulk. I would imagine that a master catalog would have many volumes, plus continuing supplements. Auctioneer John Barnes conducted the usual auction. We welcomed (in absentia) new member Robert Y. Kodani, Box 1042, San Jose, Cal. 95108.

TOKEN STORY: Since the issuer is now a coin dealer in the Culver City area, I took the opportunity recently to find out more about the \$1.00 token issued by Butler's Cleaners, 8505 Crenshaw (Los Angeles). The owner of both businesses was Mr. Irvin Butler, and he told me of having 2000 of these attractive tokens issued in 1959 by L. A. Stationary (successor to L. A. Rubber Stamp?). Mr. Butler distributed these tokens everywhere he went free of charge as an inducement for the receivers to come to his store and have some dry cleaning done. This advertising effort was very successful, according to the owner, since approximately half of the tokens returned to his store for redemption. The tokens were used until about 1978, when Mr. Butler finally sold the dry cleaning business. This abundant token seems to have escaped being listed in either of the standard references on California merchants' tokens.

THE BOOK REVIEW: I must not let this opportunity pass to tell you of Russ Rulau's remarkable third work on early United States tokens: U. S. Merchant Tokens 1845-1860, Krause Publications, 1982. The \$9.95 that one pays for this book brings one some wonderful reading about pre-Civil War America even if there is no intention of collecting the tokens. This is the long-awaited up-dating and expansion of the out-of-print work by Donald M. Miller, and Russ has brought along some very diligent research to do the job. Perhaps the most striking feature of the book is the pricing structure....these old and fascinating items--a majority of them--are available to the collector for the price of a steak dinner at Sambo's. Why isn't everyone collecting these things? I just can't answer that one, except to say that it is possible they demand too much of the modern collector in historical knowledge and personal research. Further comment should be made about the great illustrations rampant throughout the book. A full expansion of edge and metal varieties has been accomplished...the results lead me to believe that coin collectors had something to do with token strikings even in Antebellum days. Anyhow, treat yourself to this lovely book, stretch out on the sofa with a cold beer, and enjoy!

THE TOKEN TRAVELER: For various personal and business reasons I have just had some two thousand miles on the road in the eastern United States, a great circle tour of New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Of course, whenever possible I went hunting for my favorite little round beasties...what a pain this search can be! I am now compiling a really useful catalog of all the reasons why coin stores are closed when the traveling collector arrives. The most important of these is that it's Thursday (he doesn't want to work six days and picks a weekday off at random). There are many other reasons why you won't be able to buy anything, though...how about the one about how the lady who sells the coins is only in the store for two hours and you just missed her. I suspect the most aggravating was the dealer in Connecticut who, upon being asked if he had any tokens in the store, replied that he did indeed have thousands (I observed that he advertised to buy them) but that he didn't have any books and therefore never sold them to sharks (such as the writer) who came around his store looking for something for nothing. Anyhow, the things were not worth spending his valuable time upon...I found that he was worth twenty five dollars per hour! I'm just sorry that I never got to ask him how he had enough knowledge to buy tokens if he didn't have enough to sell them! Anyhow, I'm afraid that I formed a very negative impression of the usual American Coin Dealer...he is a person devoid of knowledge except when it comes via the Red Book or the teletype. He is careful never to work more than forty hours per week...closing his shop is the major activity of the day. Lest some of the membership come back at me, let me say I know plenty of dealers who do not fit this stereotype...but I still wonder how the ones I met on my trip manage to stay in business. They sure hate customers!

TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

JULY, 1982
Issue No. 98

Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

JULY MEETING: The 25th Anniversary of the California Association of Token Collectors will be celebrated at our July meeting, to be held on Sunday, July 18th, from 1 to 5 pm. Hosting the meeting at her home will be our Secretary, Elaine Willahan. The address is 516 W.99th St., in Los Angeles, near Century & Figueroa, just off the Harbor Freeway.

I'm expecting a mass turnout for this 25th Anniversary meeting. I urge all of you in Southern California to attend. We should be able to muster up 25 members for our 25th anniversary meeting. Let's try for an attendance record and go way over 30. Bring your camera for group photos.

One highlight of the meeting will be a big auction. I don't know what goodies will be auctioned off (from donated material and items submitted at the meeting), but I'll be submitting for auction items such as old transportation fare tickets, an unlisted old transportation token (found in New Mexico but in hideous condition and not fully legible), bulk lots (Mardi Gras doubloons, and a lot of about 2,000 items of junk exonomia), and other stuff. If you have material you'd like to auction off, bring it to the meeting. With a large turnout, and several exonomia dealers expected to be there, good material will bring good prices.

If we get a turnout of 25 or more people, our meeting could be as exciting and enjoyable as the annual token & collectibles show of the Calif. Exonomist Society the following Sunday at the Holiday Inn in Fullerton (Harbor Blvd. & Riverside Freeway), July 25th, 10am-5pm, 50¢ admission. Several dealers who are CATC members will be set up there. But for trading, token talk, finding bargains, and auction fun, our 25th Anniversary meeting should top that show.

A token commemorating our 25th Anniversary, issued by Bob Ritterband, will be enclosed free with this issue of Token Topics, for all members. Extras are available from Elaine Willahan for 25¢ each plus stamped envelope (limit 4 per person).

MAY MEETING REPORT: There was an unusually small turnout for the May meeting (all the more reason for a big July turnout!) hosted by Bill Massey in San Dimas. Just nine members were there: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Jim Garner, Bill Kirk, Bill Massey, Bob Null, and Elaine Willahan. Even so, it was a good meeting, with trading activity and a small 12-lot auction containing material donated by Andy Crusen, Mr. Victor, and Bob Null. Our treasury received \$21.00 from the auction, mainly from the donated material. These donations, and the 10% commission from non-donated auction material, provide partial financial support to our club, and enable us to hold our dues at \$2.00 as long as postage rates don't rise. Donations through the mail or in person at the meetings will be acknowledged in Token Topics.

AIRLINE SLOT MACHINE UPDATE Last year in Token Topics I related the news that Singapore Airlines was installing slot machines (token operated) on some of their flights. The idea didn't fare too well at first, as machine breakdowns were frequent and turbulence caused the tokens to end up all over the floor. But now the machines are back - sturdier construction and silent in operation, but

no more tokens. Now credits are bought for 50¢ a pull from the slot machine girl, who sets the machine for the amount you paid. The machine keeps track of the player's finances; there are no automatic payouts. Maximum jackpot is \$100. One passenger interviewed by the Los Angeles Times told of losing \$200 in just 20 minutes of boring play. I still haven't found out what those tokens were, that were used last year.

CATC MEMBERSHIP LIST: A copy of our current membership list, with collecting interests, is enclosed, if you are a member. There were 83 members when the list was prepared after the May meeting. New members George Dotson and Dick Powell are included in the list. Since then we have some new members, so below is a supplement to the list:

ISEKI, LAUREN, 3705 Woodcreek Lane, San Jose, Calif. 95117 (collects Calif. trade tokens I believe)

RADOMSKI, JOSEPH, 84 Charrington Rd., Rochester, NY 14609 transportation tokens

SHORT, CHUCK, 3444 So. Leland St., San Pedro, Calif. 90731 transp. tokens(rejoined)

SMITH, ALTON E., 33424 S.E. 301st St., Ravensdale, Wash. 98051

That puts us at 87 members, a record high.

P&G fights Satan-worship talk

CINCINNATI (UPI) — Procter & Gamble Co. — tired of having its employees harassed — has enlisted the Rev. Jerry Falwell and other religious leaders to prove the company is not linked to Satanism or the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

In recent months, Procter & Gamble salesmen have had paint thrown on their cars or tires slashed and other P&G employees have been challenged to fistfights and their children harassed at school because of the rumor, company officials said. Even preachers have been accusing P&G.

"Enough is enough," P&G spokesman Bill Dobson said Thursday, announcing the company was going to war against the rumor.

The rumor started with a story that linked P&G's century-old corporate symbol — a man in the moon looking out over 13 stars — to satanic worship. Another version of the rumor is that the moon symbol means P&G has been taken over by "Moonies," followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

The rumors are "preposterous," say P&G officials, who point out the symbol had its beginnings in 1851 when riverboat transporters marked



P&G's trademark ^{UPI}

P&G crates for easy identification. The design was registered in the U.S. Patent Office in 1882.

Still, for the last couple of years, the Satan and "Moonie" rumors have circulated nationwide. P&G, the nation's 23rd largest corporation, initially tried the silent approach, hoping the rumors would go away.

Instead, they increased.

P&G now receives 12,000 calls a month about the rumors. When employees became the targets of violence, P&G decided it could no longer afford silence.

The firm started an offensive against the rumors Thursday by distributing statements from five American religious leaders denouncing the rumors.



The token illustrated above was in my current mail auction and I requested attribution. Wilbert Boers of Cincinnati identified it as a Procter & Gamble issue from Cincinnati, probably to stockholders (Dividend Day picnic?). He also sent a newspaper article similar to the one shown here. Rumors have been going around that P&G's trademark is a satanic symbol and that P&G supports satanism or is owned by a church of Satan. I first heard this on a radio talk show about two months ago.

The man in moon and stars symbol reportedly was a popular symbol in the mid 19th century, sort of like today's happy face. The symbol on the token is similar to P&G's trademark, but not exactly the same. What Kumalongoola and 1000 Lazistas mean is still a mystery.

TOKEN TOPICS

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September, 1982
Issue No. 99

John M. Barnes
Associate Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Secretary Elaine Willahan has invited all CATC members and their guests to be present at her home for our next meeting, to be held on Sunday, September 19, 1982, beginning at about 1:00 PM and extending long into the afternoon. Visitors may reach this location by taking the Harbor Freeway to the Century Blvd. offramp. The address, 516 West 99th St., is a block or so north of Century Blvd. and the west side of the freeway.

JULY MINUTES: July was the occasion of our Association's 25th anniversary, and the members really turned out for it! Would you believe twenty four members and guests attending? A twenty fifth, Roland Atwood,,, charter member #1....was considered as present in spirit, even though he is no longer able to leave the Santa Monica nursing home where he now resides. Members present were Steve Alpert, Harriet Carter, John Barnes, Robert Carter, Fred Coops, Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, James Garner, Floyd Holliday, Bill Kirk, Fred McGinnis, Edrick Miller, Bob Null, Ben Odesser (especially welcomed from his home town of Chicago), Robert Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Wally Shidler, Chuck Short, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willahan. Guests present were Joyceanne Edell and Pat Miller. It is to be noted that we had two members present who attended that very first meeting so long ago... Ed Miller and Ken Smith. John Barnes conducted the usual auction (and got stuck with a large bag of wooden nickels); thanks for generous donation lots go to Elaine Willahan, Bob Null, Larry Edell, and Paul Thompson. Mainly because of the donations, the auction realized \$18.45 for the treasury. Also, in a very thoughtful gesture, Bob Carter purchased two extra 25th Anniversary tokens for five dollars each. Your editor's favorite part of the meeting was when that chocolate desert by Elaine came on...and disappeared in a big hurry. A major topic of discussion during the business meeting was the "mothballing" of the new RTD dollar tokens, due to changes in the fare schedule. In addition, a specimen was displayed bearing a "B" mintmark rather than the first issue "A".

GEMS FROM THE PRESS: I have rounded up a few odds and ends in this department that I have been meaning to share with the membership. The first item was heard on radio KFAC just yesterday (Aug. 16), to the effect that (financially troubled) Sambo's restaurants will all change their name to another one. Unfortunately, I couldn't hear the new name, but I am sure we will all find out. For token collectors, it is certainly the end of an era. I can't help but wonder whether collectors will continue to be interested in this series.

The L. A. Times also ran a feature article by Staff Writer Beverly Bayette several months ago-I omitted to clip the date-on the ..."Flowering of L.A. Consumer Scams...". The piece gave details of the usual things like the pigeon drop, then spent several paragraphs on Las Vegas coupon offers, which I don't consider to be in the same league. Finally, she said: "For example, coupons redeemable for slot machine play may give the buyer special coins, not legal tender, with which to play. With these coins, says Elkins (the interviewee), the player 'gets a return of less than 1%, which makes it absurd, a totally different game. It's just sort of to get your arm in practice.'" What a shame to demean these tokens...your editor has had lots of fun using them and well as collecting them.

The Times of June 27, 1982 also ran a short article about how the three Hilton Hotels in Nevada will run a tournament in April, 1983 in which the only participants will be winners of "Pot-O-Gold" jackpots. Sure enough, the players will be playing

"specially minted championship gaming token(s)" in the tournament slot machines. Can any of our enterprising members obtain one of more of these pieces. This event will be held at the Reno Hilton on April 5, 1983.

Last and least, I can't resist inserting the L.A. Times clipping on the right, particularly in view of my comments on the same subject in the January issue of Token Topics.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS: In the May, 1982 issue of this publication I erroneously informed you that the Butlers Cleaners was not listed. I have found that it is indeed listed....under Inglewood: Kappen 4, Album LA 435C.

THE BOOK REVIEW: At our last meeting, Steve Alpert sold me (for \$10) Index to TAMS-Listed Maverick Tokens by Sam Ruggeri (May, 1982). I started in on one of my several large boxes of mavericks in an attempt to match any one of my pieces to a book listing, if there was no identification of the piece. I quickly went through six tokens not yet known to TAMS, then was surprised when my Pen-Mar Grocery Co. $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent turned out to be from Pennsylvania (Listing #448). I am, nevertheless, impressed at the number of maverick tokens which must remain to be listed...and maybe identified. This reference covers the first 10,000 mavericks in the history of the organization, and is well worthwhile for every merchant token collector, even if he identifies just a few pieces. My one objection is that the inscriptions on the tokens are not conventionally listed (but rather abbreviated), so that to be absolutely sure of an identification the user must have a complete file of the TAMS Journal in order to refer to the illustration and complete wording. But, don't hesitate...the book is worth its price.

NEW MEMBER: Welcome to new CATC member Lee Dye, P. O. Box 972, Honaker, Va. 24260.

COMMENTARY: Have you, at least once, found that you have purchased material that isn't quite numismatic? Unfortunately, or maybe happily, I do this all the time, then find myself wondering what to do with it. For years, material of this sort sat around on my desk-or under the desk-until one day I had the bright idea that I could put the things in a box entitled "MISCELLANY", and had such success that I now have two such boxes. Of the hundreds of items, there is nothing that is medium of exchange, but plenty of things that come close. They even seem to group themselves into logical collections, and I rather enjoy keeping them if for no greater reason than some occasional comic relief. I hereby grant all readers of this publication charters to start their own accumulations, and will here present examples of categories of what will inevitably appear. First and foremost, dog tags, with and without original envelopes. Ah, and what a wonderful place to file the productions of L. A. Stamp and their ilk...."tokens" which have no province. Here, at last, is a disposition for those pinbacks you don't collect and don't really want to dispose of. Put all your keychain medals and National Park medallions in the kitty...you'll never regret it. Then there is the category that briefly made it into numismatics and just as rapidly departed...the ingot. Millions were made and are still sitting around, except for those swallowed by the silver boom. Another special group is of round key heads with the keyed portion removed which have been so altered to make them work in vending machines. The things look for all the world like tokens and are sometimes sold as such by unscrupulous persons. Tags and tool checks-most inscribed with cryptic initials-abound to fill your boxes. Poker chips, hotel key tags (some of these are beautiful medals), buttons, jewelry, watch fobs, seals, insignia, cardboard coins, patent marks....let your collection guide you. You might even wind up with something collectible.

RTD Token

The likeness of Henry Huntington, late railway owner, appears on a new, near-quarter-sized fare token having the value of \$1 on RTD routes.

The likeness of Susan B. Anthony, late suffragette, appears on a new, near-quarter-sized, "token" dollar. Fit for an RTD slot she's not!

Isn't a buck a buck, although one's a doe?

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN
Pasadena

Los Angeles Times 2/7/82

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

NOVEMBER, 1982

Issue No. 100

Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

DUES NOTICE With the increases in postage and printing over the past year, it now costs over \$2.00 per year per member just to print and mail out your 6 issues of Token Topics. Thus, after discussion by the club officers and members present at the last meeting, it was voted to raise the dues to \$3.00 per year beginning with 1983. It's well worth it for the local members who attend the meetings, and we hope our distant members stay with us. So please send in your \$3.00 dues for 1983, right now, to Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, CA 90044. Those attending the November meeting can pay in person. Distant members can include a note or short letter which will be read at the next meeting (an "advertisement" or just a greetings message).

NOVEMBER MEETING Elaine Willahan will host our Sunday, November 21st meeting, from about 1 to 5 pm, at her home at 516 West 99th St. in Los Angeles (one block west of Harbor Freeway, one block north of Century Blvd). We thank Elaine for hosting so many meetings this year as a couple of other regular meeting places are temporarily unavailable.

Let's have a good turnout, and bring along all your trading material. Also consider consigning some better tokens to our Nov. meeting auction, as more material is needed.

We have a new member to welcome: Andrew T. Gazsi, 333 W. State St., Apt. 23, Trenton, NJ 08618, who collects gambling tokens and chips. Seems we have quite a few members collecting these, so contact Mr. Gazsi and maybe do some trading.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT The Sept. 19 meeting at Elaine Willahan's had in attendance 16 members (Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, John Hamilton, Floyd Holiday, Bill Kirk, Robert Kubach, Bill Massey, Fred McGinnis, Bob Null, Wally Shidler, Ken & Eleanor Smith, Elaine Willahan, and late arrival Rod Curry) and 2 guests (Ron Holiday and Melinda Woerz). Auctioneer John Barnes helped the club net \$4.00 from the September auction, which contained no donation lots, but several members donated small cash amounts by letting auction recorder and cashier Andy Crusen "keep the change." Andy, also our Treasurer, reported that we had \$273.15 in our bank account going into the Sept. meeting. If we get a good membership renewal for 1983, we could put some of that money to use (issue a commemorative token, or ?).

\$100 SLOT TOKENS & OTHER RECENT NEWS by Steve Alpert The latest novelty in slot machines in Las Vegas is the appearance of \$100-a-pull slot machines, which use special \$100 tokens. The Tropicana has one of these machines (see newspaper clipping on next page). I'm also informed that the Dunes has a \$100 slot machine too, with a one million dollar jackpot if you play 5 tokens at once (\$500 a pull) and get the winning symbols. Serious casino token collectors are happily paying \$100 or more to add these tokens to their collection. But that's too much for me, so if any readers are going to Las Vegas, if possible get me a rubbing or description of the token (for cataloguing purposes) by buying a token, recording its complete description, and cashing it back in. I believe the tokens are obtainable only from the attendant at the \$100 machine and can be redeemed only by that person, so they are strictly slot machine tokens and not general casino tokens. I expect \$1,000 a pull slot machines soon.

A special gaming token will be struck for a slot machine tournament next year in Reno (see newspaper clipping).

Good news for military token collectors - The U.S. Army is bringing back slot machines to its overseas clubs. This should result in many new military slot machine tokens.

Video arcade tokens are still being issued much faster than cataloguers Steve Alpert & Ken Smith can keep up with. Help is needed from CATC members - check the arcades, pizza & ice cream parlors, bowling alleys, college game rooms, etc., for custom made (not stock) tokens, and please report them to us.

I have been keeping close tabs on the arcade token use in the rather obscure town of Yucca Valley, CA (in the high desert north of Palm Springs). I previously reported the "Where It's AT" arcade token (arcade closed in 1980). There are now two other arcades in town. One uses quarters. The other, Magic Castle Arcade, used stock Van Brook tokens until their own tokens were minted: Obv. - MAGIC CASTLE / (castle) / ARCADE; Rev. - FOR REPLAY ONLY / NO / CASH / VALUE; Nickel-plated brass, 23mm, solid.

A new trend in vending machines is to add amusement features (going full circle from the early trade stimulator machines of the early 1890's which added amusement and gambling to making a routine purchase). Coca-Cola now has speaking vending machines, and ones where you can play a little video game with each purchase. If history repeats itself, tokens will appear for these new video game vending machines.

100 Bucks a Pull

High Rollers Get Own Slot Machine

By CHARLES HILLINGER, Times Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS—The world's first \$100 slot machine has been installed at the Tropicana on the Strip.

It's the brainchild of the casino's slot manager, Verne Holmes, 37.

"What with the ever-increasing popularity of slot machines, it was bound to happen," insists Holmes, who predicts that every major casino in Nevada will have one within a couple of years.

"It's nothing for high rollers to bet \$500 or \$1,000 on the roll of the dice, the spin of the roulette wheel or on a 21 hand. So why not a slot machine at \$100 a pull?"

The machine was custom-built by Tropicana mechanics.

It has four payoffs—four deuces gives the players \$500; four 5s, \$2,000; four 8s, \$80,000, and four 9s, \$90,000.

Crowds Around High Rollers

Most of the day the "Dream Machine," as the \$100-a-pull slot is called, is without players. But when a high roller tries his luck the crowds gather because of the novelty of it.

Letcher Mint in Lancaster, Calif., was commissioned by the Tropicana to produce 5,000 special \$100 tokens for the machine. They are slightly larger than silver dollars.

"The \$100 tokens cost us \$15 each. They're pure silver," says Holmes. "One player bought 20 and instead of putting them into the machine kept them to give to friends as souvenirs."

Hilton Hotel Corp. to sponsor Super Pot-O-Gold Slot Tournament

The Hilton Hotel Corp. is sponsoring the Super Pot-O-Gold Slot Championship Tournament April 5 at the Reno Hilton Hotel.

Twenty-three contestants, comprised of top slot winners from the Las Vegas Hilton, Flamingo Hilton or Reno Hilton, during the past year, are eligible to compete in the event.

Winnings to date for 1982 slot champions exceed \$5.83 million, with some \$18 million chalked up since the "Pot-O-Gold" slots were introduced in 1978 by Barron Hilton.

Players in the tournament will draw numbers for the slot machines and will be given \$300 in the form of a specially minted championship gaming token.

Participants will play the entire \$300 within a 30-minute time span. Whoever wins the most money in that period, will be declared the tournament winner.

Army Drops Ban on Slot Machines

From Reuters

WASHINGTON—The Army has decided to return slot machines to its clubs overseas to help improve soldier morale, the Defense Department said Wednesday. The machines were removed in 1972 following charges of management fraud.

Coke also has some other vending surprises for customers—such as a vending machine that plays video games. Customers get not only a refreshment, but also a chance to position a "route man" so that he can catch cans tossed by a monkey in a palm tree. If the bottles are missed, the monkey laughs.

Drabble

By Kevin Fagan



MAGIC CASTLE ARCADE	LADIES NITE	MONDAY	6 for \$1.00	6 p.m. till Closing
	SNACK BAR	Soft Drinks, Chips, Cookies and Candy	6 for \$1.00	
	ASB SPECIAL	Show us your Card and get	6 for \$1.00	
	ALWAYS	5 for \$1.00	30 for \$1.00	

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